National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five year. The latest two such surveys were conducted in 1993-94 (NSS 50th round) and 1999-2000 (NSS 55th round). The percentage of persons living below the poverty line is' estimated as 35.97 per cent in 1993-94 and 26.10 per cent in 1999-2000. During the Ninth Plan period, poverty has been estimated only for the year 1999-2000.

•(b) and (c) There is a three-pronged action to allevate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are: (i) acceleration of economic growth, (ii) human, and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.

Annual Plan Allocation for Punjab

4628. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the annual Plan outlay allocated for Punjab during the current year;

(b) whether the State Government has made any demand to increase the allocation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Annual Plan outlay of Punjab for the year 2002-03 has not yet been finalized.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Loan-Grant Ratio in the Central Plan Assistance

4629. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments, particularly Rajasthan, have proposed any changes in the loan-grant ratio in the Central Plan Assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present outstanding loan burden against Rajasthan and other States, and whether any specific suggestions have been made to, mitigate the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As a part of the States' suggestion for a revision in the Gadgil Formula and, in the subsequent discussions in the 49th meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) held on 1st September, 2001, several non special category States (including Rajasthan) have, *inter-alia,* proposed liberalising the existing loan-grant ratio of 70:30 in the Central Plan Assistance.

(c) A statement is enclosed. (See below) As a follow up of the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC), the Ministry of Finance has drawn-up a scheme of Medium Term Fiscal Reforms Plan (MTFRP) which, *inter-alia,* aims at restoration of the financial health of the State Governments.

Statement

Statewise Composition of outstanding Loan burden against Rajasthan and other States, as on End March, 2002 (BE)

(Rs. Crore)

SI. No.	States	Total Loan burden
1	2	3
A. Special Category State		
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,291.00
2.	Assam	11,741.00
3.	Himachal Pradesh	10,141.00
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	9,445.00
5.	Manipur	1,681.00
6.	Meghalaya	1,327.00
7.	Mizoram	1,240.00
8.	Nagaland	2,229.00
9.	Sikkim	760.00
10.	Tripura	2,707.00
	Total (A)	42,562.00

1	2	3
B. Non Special Category States		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44,994.00
2.	Bihar	38,983.00
3.	Goa	2,732.00
4.	Gujarat	38,815.00
5.	Haryana	15,410.00
6.	Karnataka	27,149.00
7.	Kerala	26,795.00
8.	Madhya Pradesh	31,272.00
9.	Maharashtra	51,554.00
10.	Orissa	24,499.00
11.	Punjab	32,278.00
12.	Rajasthan	35,741.00
13.	Tamil Nadu	34,276.00
14.	Uttar Pradesh	79,439.00
15.	West Bengal	57,358.00
	Total (B)	541,295.00
C.	Total (A+B)	583,857.00

Target Set for Development of NER

4630. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set under the different schemes for development of NE Region during the Ninth Five year Plan period;

(b) how far these targets have been achieved; and

(c) the approach adopted in the Tenth Five Year Plan relating to development of NE Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE rN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) A statement regarding financial targets set in terms of approved outlays and targets achieved in terms of expenditure incurred by the State Governments in the North Eastern Region and Sikkim during the various Years of the Ninth Five Year Plan period is annexed. (See below)

(c) the Tenth Five Year Plan is yet to be finalized.